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February 28, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest for Price Cap Areas
In North Dakota**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

BEK hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.¹ BEK is an ILEC and a CLEC serving rural areas of North Dakota, and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Area

The experiment will provide broadband service to 1009 eligible high-cost locations in unserved high-cost Census Blocks with the following North Dakota Census Tract(s):

<u>County</u>	<u>Tract</u>
Barnes	38003968000
Morton	38059020200
Morton	38059020300
Morton	38059020400
Oliver	38065961200

Proposed Services

Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of 100-500 Mbps downstream/10-50 upstream provided over fiber to the home.

Funding

¹ See *Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 et al., Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

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BEK estimates construction costs to be a total of \$8.1M based on knowledge of the area. The costs will be refined if and when a formal proposal is submitted. BEK requests \$5.67 M in funding from Connect America Funds in a one-time funding and will fund the remaining capital and ongoing expenses to operate the system.

BEK expects construction to be completed within the unserved high-cost Census Blocks within three years after construction starts.

BEK appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,



Derrick Bulawa

BEK Communications

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